# Montana Post \* Volume 43, Number 1 \* Spring 2005

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## Contents

From the Director
Interactive Educational Exhibit Now On-Line
Montana Celebrates Historic Preservation
Montana Boasts Seven New National Register Listings
Interns Gain Experience and Help Society
History Happenings
Acquisitions
Calendar
Hours

# From the Director Arnie Olsen

As we go to press with this edition of the *Montana Post*, the legislature is considering funding for a new building complex for the Montana Historical Society, to be called the Montana History Center.

If approved, the History Center will have 250,000 square feet of space on thirteen acres of land. The site is currently home to the Capital Hill Mall. The adaptive re-use of the existing building will provide ideal space for the History Center at a savings of more than \$20 million compared to constructing the same space from the ground up. In addition to the cost savings, the site offers great parking and is just a five-minute walk from the Capitol.

The current Society building was dedicated in 1952 and is stretched beyond capacity. The good news, no matter what happens, is that Gov. Brian Schweitzer and many other leaders from both parties support a new building to house the Society. We now know that people from across the state recognize how important this is for Montana history and heritage.

A statewide steering committee co-chaired by former Republican First Lady Betty Babcock and former Democratic attorney general and veteran legislator Joe Mazurek is leading a non-partisan effort for the new facility.

The opportunity to purchase the new property did not come to the Society and its Board of Trustees until late in 2004. The current owners have given the state an option to purchase the property. That option expires this June.

The estimated cost of acquisition is \$10 million with the remodel and transition to the new building at about \$30 million, compared to \$63 million for new construction.

There is no other property of this size close to the Capitol Complex that has existing adaptable structures. We have to get this done. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

On February 17, 2005, the Montana State Legislature put \$7.5 million into a comprehensive state bonding bill toward this effort. That bill is still under consideration. We hope to add another \$2.5 million from some other source to assure that this key property will be acquired to secure our future.

The Montana History Foundation has agreed to seek up to \$20 million from the private sector to accomplish the funding for the project but cannot begin to undertake the campaign without this solid commitment from the state.

This facility is unparalleled compared to any other options we have looked at for the last several years in terms of its size, parking, location, potential for long-term growth, cost effectiveness, and potential for developing a world-class Montana History Center.

The time to act is now. We need the support and assistance of all our friends to make this dream a reality. We would encourage you to write your state legislators and express your opinion on this project. If you have any questions on this initiative, please contact me.

# Interactive Educational Exhibit Now On-Line



This Chinese fan is just one of the artifacts and photographs featured in the new on-line exhibit, "What I Did for My Summer Vacation."

Montana Historical Society Museum

"What I Did For My Summer Vacation"—the first online educational interactive exhibit produced by Montana's Museum—explores Montana history in a personal way and highlights the breadth and depth of the Society's collections by connecting objects held by the Museum to the living history of today's Montanans.

The online exhibit asks visitors to the site to engage in a role-play by choosing historic items—all from the museum collections—that they encounter on a journey.

"What I Did For My Summer Vacation" is designed to appeal to middle school and high school students as well as to adults interested in Montana's history. Text and graphics are kid-friendly while at the same time not kid-centric. At present, visitors can travel from their family ranch in Custer County to visit the Fisk family in Helena in 1902. Eventually, visitors will be able to choose from five different vacation scenarios.

This project was funded with a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and was built by Steven Allison-Bunnell of Educational Web Adventures. Visit the site at <a href="http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/summervacation/index.htm">http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/summervacation/index.htm</a>.

# Montana Celebrates Historic Preservation

The Montana Historical Society hosted the 2005 Biennial Historic Preservation Awards on Thursday, January 20, at the Montana Club in Helena. These awards recognize the outstanding efforts of those who have worked to save and honor historic properties across Montana. As it has been for the past twenty years, it was a special event that drew together many unsung heroes who dedicate their energies to preserving the best of our collective past.

Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger presented the awards, which honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation of our important places. In addition, owners of the twenty-seven properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places over the past two years received certificates of registration.

Alberton resident Chuck Mead received the Local Preservationist Award for his work to preserve and interpret the Mullan Road in Mineral County. His efforts also include identifying other historic transportation routes and helping to publish a book on Mineral County history.

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization received the Community Action Award in recognition of their continued work to save the historic buildings of that city. Accepting the award were several members of Butte CPR: Mitzi Rosillon, Jim Warner, Larry Smith, James and Kelly Rose, Carol Westine, Irene and Don Sheidecker, and Andrea and Don Sterly. Through their positive, hands-on participation in the civic life of Butte, they are fostering understanding of the significance of Butte's historic architecture.



Doncaster Round Barn at Twin Bridges, recipient of the Governor's Special Award at the Biennial Montana Preservation Awards

Barb Pahl, Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Mountains/Plains Office, was given the SHPO Special Award honoring her for her dedication to the state. From saving the red buses of Glacier National Park to negotiating the preservation of rock art in Weatherman Draw, Pahl has been a steadfast supporter of Montana's most precious cultural resources.

The Governor's Special Award celebrated the restoration of the Doncaster Round Barn at Twin Bridges. Owners Allan and Phyllis Hamilton, together with ranch manager George Trischman and local carpenter Bob Lancaster, invested their time and expertise to bring this local landmark back to its former glory.

# **Montana Boasts Seven New National Register Listings**

In anticipation of the 2005 Biennial Preservation Ceremony, Montana enjoyed a flurry of National Register of Historic Places listings in December 2004 and early 2005.

The **Helena Railroad Depot Historic District** developed as a direct result of the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in June 1883, and over half its buildings were built within five years of that date. The twenty-three buildings that make up the district include the 1904 depot as well as establishments that catered to travelers and the area's working-class residents. Representing an important aspect of Helena's history, the district was listed on December 15, 2004.

Great Falls Architect Angus Vaughn McIver designed the **Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building**. Since its construction in 1951, the building has housed the Montana Historical Society and has served as an on-going memorial to Montana's veterans and pioneers. For its architectural significance and its association with the history of art and education in Montana, the building was listed on December 15, 2004.

The **Howard School** in Rosebud County was constructed in 1905, at a time when ranchers and homesteaders came in large numbers to the eastern Montana plains. The substantial, two-story building reflected the community of Howard's faith in the future and its commitment to education. The school building, which remains an important meeting place for the Howard community, was listed on December 23, 2004.

The buildings within the two-block **Belt Commercial Historic District** in Cascade County provide an excellent and largely intact example of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial architecture. They also convey the commercial, recreational, and social development of this coal-mining town. For these reasons, the district was listed on December 23, 2004.

The **Burgess Garage** in Richland County was constructed circa 1913. Largely unchanged, the building has remained a garage for its entire commercial existence and is a testament to the role mechanization played in the homestead boom. Listed on December 30, 2004, it is the oldest standing building in Lambert.

In an effort to encourage preservation-minded economic development in their community, the City of Baker initiated the listing of its **Baker Hotel**. Built across the street from the historic location of the town's railroad depot, the hotel is Baker's second oldest standing brick building



Morgan-Case Homestead, photograph from the State Historic Preservation Office

and has anchored the town's commercial core since its construction in 1915. Significant for the ways it represents the architectural patterning and the early history of Baker, the hotel was listed on January 5, 2005.

Finally, the Morgan-Case
Homestead was listed in the National
Register on February 9, 2005. Owned
by the Forest Service and under
rehabilitation for use as a ranger station,
the homestead was originally patented
by Annie Morgan and her common-law
husband, John Case, and is an
excellent example of subsistence
homesteads filed in rugged terrain and
dense forest.

# **Interns Gain Experience and Help Society**

The Society has six interns busy in various programs this spring: two in the preservation office, one in the museum, and three in the research center.

Valedictorian Helena High School senior **Britni Thornburg** started working in the State Historic Preservation Office this November as part of the Spring Semester Coop Program. Among her other tasks, Britni has worked building an electronic library of archaeological site type photos and processing bulk soil samples from a site in Madison County using a flotation screening technique to recover micro lithic and faunal materials. **Rachel Manley**, a senior at Carroll College, is also interning with the preservation office through the spring semester. Rachel works to document historic properties in the state and aids property owners by completing National Register of Historic Places nomination forms. By writing architectural descriptions and historical narratives, as well as conducting primary and secondary research, Rachel is helping recognize and honor Montana's significant places.

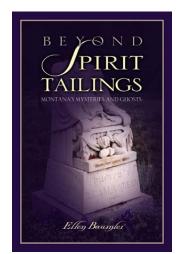
The Society's Museum and Education Division is benefiting from the work of University of Montana anthropology graduate student **Matt Sadorf**. Sadorf is assisting with research for a scheduled 2006 utilitarian ceramics exhibit. Tentatively called *Feats of Clay—Building Montana with Earth*, the exhibit will focus on clay products such as brick and tile produced by Montana companies. The exhibit is coordinated with the Holter Museum and the Archie Bray Foundation as part of a series of events for a "Summer of Clay."

Three Carroll College students are lending their skills to the Research Center. Senior **Lindsay Thompson** started working on the Research Center's Place Names project in January, helping to compile the origins of the names of hundreds of towns across Montana. Senior **Matt Vanderwater** started to work in October 2004, and is helping to process the incoming records of the 2005 Legislature. Finally, junior **Bonnie Newton**, who also started work in October 2004, has been working with the Archives staff to process the recently acquired records of the Slayton Mercantile of Lavina.

# **History Happenings**

Ellen Baumler has again traversed the state, interviewing and researching to find history with a ghostly twist. Her first book, *Spirit Tailings*, introduced Montanans to their haunted past. *Beyond Spirit Tailings* again offers ghostly encounters from Montana's heritage places. Baumler's latest work includes new historical mysteries of Flathead Lake, Thomas Francis Meagher, plus many more. Passed down through generations, these "spirit tailings" illustrate the subtle presence of the past in the everyday lives of modern Montanans. The Montana Historical Society Press will release *Beyond Spirit Tailings* in May 2005 with a book premiere talk and signing at 1:00 p.m. at the Society on May 14.

The Montana Historical Society Education Program is teaming up with ExplorationWorks to offer **Camp Discovery**—a weeklong day camp, July 11-15, for children ages seven to eleven. The camp will feature hands-on history and will include fieldtrips to the National



Park Service traveling exhibit, Corps II, at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds. Tuition for the camp is \$125, with scholarships available. For more information and to register, call 406-457-1800.

On May 16, 2005, Montana's Museum will mount *Portraits of Native America* in the Society's main lobby. Part of an ongoing series of temporary exhibits organized in observance of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, this show will highlight portraits of Montana's first inhabitants—the Native



Portrait of Tom Dawson by Winold Reiss. Pastel on paperboard, 1949. Bequest of Helene Edkins.

Americans who remained largely unseen by Lewis and Clark, but who have captured the imagination of artists ever since. Although motives varied from artist to artist and styles changed to fit evolving aesthetics, the continuing efforts of these painters and sculptors over the last two centuries have combined to form a rich and colorful legacy.

William E. Farr's two-part article, "Going to Buffalo: Indian Hunting Migrations across the Rocky Mountains," originally published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, has been **translated and published as a book in Germany** by Verlag Fuer Amerikanistik D. Kuegler. The article previously received recognition by winning the 2004 Vivian Paladin Award from the Montana Historical Society.

A **recent acquisition**, *The Great Northern*, by Tucker Smith, required a few more museum staff to install than most paintings. Generously donated by Dr. David T. Larsen, the framed painting is ten feet wide by three feet, five inches high. Painted by artist Tucker Smith in 1989, it depicts the Great Northern Empire Builder crossing a trestle at East

Glacier, Montana, in the 1940s. The engine is a class S-2 Northern. In the background are the East Glacier Park Lodge and the peaks of southern Glacier National Park. The painting now

hangs in the Museum foyer.

On February 17, 2005, Governor Brian Schweitzer awarded Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg a Governor's Humanities Award for their creation and support of the **Montana Heritage Project**. The award recognized the project's work in helping students and teachers "to develop humanities research skills, to explore and document the histories of their communities, and to practice the values and civic arts of democracy."

**Stan Wilmoth**, SHPO State Archaeologist, is recipient of the **2005 Staff Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation** from the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). Co-



Museum staff install The Great Northern, by Tucker Smith. Photograph by Richard Boyd

workers and other colleagues nominated Stan, whose many accomplishments include the preservation of countless archaeological sites through the review and compliance program, service to the state's premier historic sites including Pictograph Cave National Historic Landmark, and the return of Native American remains to their respective tribes this spring after a complicated nine-year process.

Among the many other tasks they perform, members of the **Friends of the Society** are currently assisting the library with a retro-cataloging project for items transferred from the archives. This is just one example of the important work performed by the Society's volunteers. The Society will honor the Friends' hard work at the Annual Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, April 20, 2005. If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Society, please contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

Work has begun on a **new textbook** geared toward teaching Montana history on the seventh and eighth grade level. Writer Krys Holmes and middle-school teacher Sue Dailey are the book's primary authors. Society staff and a five-member teacher advisory panel will review each chapter as it is drafted to make sure the book is based solidly in fact, provides comprehensive coverage of Montana history, and is appropriate to its intended audience. Books are expected to be available for classroom use by fall 2007. The project has been funded by the Bair Trust.

On April 11, the Society will welcome **Linda Wruck**, who has been hired to replace Kristin Gallas as its new **Education Officer**. A graduate of the Museum Studies Program of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Wrunk holds a B.A. in history and a teaching certificate from Northern Illinois University at DeKalb. She was the Education Coordinator and Director of Youth Services at the Kansas State Historical Society and interned in the exhibit and education offices at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Christmas Might Be Over, but don't forget that **membership in the Montana Historical Society makes a great gift** for all occasions. Membership is a gift that keeps on giving all year long and includes such benefits as unlimited free admission to the Montana Historical Society's Museum and the Original Governor's Mansion, a subscription to *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, discounts on nearly every item in the Museum Store or online shopping cart, and much more. New members who enroll while visiting the Society will also receive an exclusive Montana Historical Society travel mug. Membership dollars help fund a number of important educational programs that otherwise would not receive financial support. To purchase a membership, please visit <a href="http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/membership/default.asp">http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/membership/default.asp</a> or call us at 406-444-2918.



The story of this 1918 Red Cross quilt, now hanging in the Treasure State Treasures exhibit, has inspired the Lewis and Clark District Red Cross to launch a new quilting project. It will unveil the result at its 2005 Heroes Breakfast.

The American Red Cross, Lewis and Clark District, invited MHS staff to participate in its third annual Heroes' Breakfast on March 12. The breakfast honors local individuals and organizations for heroism or outstanding service. "Red Cross Quilts" was the theme of the event. MHS staff recreated its Red Cross Christmas tree and displayed the guilt stitched by Society Friends that accompanied the tree. The guilt and its model, a 1918 signature Red Cross guilt from the Society's collection, were the focus of Ellen Baumler's keynote address. Baumler shared the historic legacy of Red Cross guilts and helped launch the local organization's own quilt project that will culminate with the Heroes' breakfast next year.

Thirty Montana Heritage Project teachers gathered in Helena on February 3 and 4 for their annual Winter Summit. They researched materials for their own projects, learned to submit material on the Project's new website (<a href="www.montanaheritageproject.org">www.montanaheritageproject.org</a>), and compared notes on each school's current research and analytical efforts. That summit kicked off a busy time for the Project, as students and teachers prepare for the annual Youth Heritage Festival, April 4 and 5, 2005, in Helena at the Myrna Loy Theater. For example, Simms students have already completed their research on transportation in the Sun River Valley and hosted a "Centuries on the Move" community heritage fair on March 14, 2005. On March 16, Ronan students showcased their year of interviewing area veterans in an afternoon program. White Sulphur Springs students came to the Montana Historical Society Research Center for a day in their quest to unravel whether justice was served in a 1916-17 hanging in Meagher County. A report of their work can be found at: <a href="http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/index.php/fieldnotes/wss-students-researching/">http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/index.php/fieldnotes/wss-students-researching/</a>.

Get ready for the **summer issue of** *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. This issue includes articles on Crazy Horse and Red Cloud Agency, the federal surveys of the Montana Territory, and the controversy surrounding bison in Yellowstone National Park. *Montana* is sold on newsstands across the state, or you can subscribe online at <a href="http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/magazine/subscribe.asp">http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/magazine/subscribe.asp</a> or by calling 1-800-243-9900.

# **Acquisitions**

The Montana Historical Society is grateful to the 241 organizations, businesses, and individuals who donated works of art, artifacts, archival materials, books, education materials, and photographs in 2004. See a full list of our 2004 donors.

The Society continues to welcome donations and encourages anyone interested in donating items to contact the following individuals: Charlene Porsild, library (406-444-4787, <a href="mailto:cporsild@mt.gov">cporsild@mt.gov</a>); Molly Kruckenberg, archives (406-444-7482, <a href="mailto:mkruckenberg@mt.gov">mkruckenberg@mt.gov</a>); Lory Morrow, photograph archives (406-444-4714, <a href="mailto:dmorrow@mt.gov">dmorrow@mt.gov</a>); Kirby Lambert, art (406-444-4711, <a href="mailto:klambert@mt.gov">klambert@mt.gov</a>); and George Oberst, three-dimensional objects (406-444-0359, <a href="mailto:gov">goberst@mt.gov</a>).

# Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free**, **open to the public**, **and held 6:30 p.m.** at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

March 23, noon: Native American Women's Art. Join Jackie Parsons, Blackfeet artist and member of the Montana Arts Council, as she presents the historic and contemporary roles Native American women play in the arts. Part of the March Lecture Series, a fundraiser for the Friends of the Society, this program costs \$5.00.

March 24: The Saga of the Mandan: the REEL Story. Jennifer Bottomly O'Looney discusses a Montana state treasure, the keelboat Mandan, which was featured in the 1943 RKO movie The Big Sky.

March 30: Reading Between the Lines. Jodie Foley, MHS Archivist, will share a sampling of women's diaries, reminiscences and oral histories. Part of the March Lecture Series, a fundraiser for the Friends of the Society, this program costs \$5.00.

*March 31:* **Pages in History, Readers Forum.** Sportswriter Curt Synness will lead the discussion of *Counting Coup*, by Larry Colton.

April 7: **Treasure Hunt through our Treasure State Treasures Gallery**. Like to look for treasures? Come and join us for an evening through our "Treasure State Treasures" Exhibit.

*April 7, 7:00 p.m.:* **Forest Service History Reflected through Political Cartoons.** USDA Forest Service Historian Gerry Williams presents the history of the Forest Service through a unique and revealing lens. *Myrna Loy Center, Helena* 

April 14: Archeological Investigations at Garnet Ghost Town. Teri Wolfgram, Archaeologist with Bureau of Land Management, presents this unique look at Garnet in honor of archaeology week.

April 21: Cass Gilbert in Montana: A Study of Architectural Style. Join Kate Hampton, National Register historian, for a tour of the work of nationally renown architect who designed two of Montana's most famous buildings: the Montana Club in Helena and the Metals Bank Building in Butte.

- April 28: Pages in History, Readers Forum. Montana Heritage Project Education Director Marcella Sherfy and Archivist Jodie Foley will facilitate a discussion of *Born to Be*, by Taylor Gordon.
- May 5: **Community Preservation**. Join Community Preservation Coordinator Rolene Schliesman as she talks about the good work being done to preserve historic structures across Montana.
- May 7, 1:00 p.m.: **Book Premiere—Marshall of Medicine Lodge**. Stan Lynde will speak about and sign his new novel, based on his memories of eastern Montana.
- May 12, 7:00 p.m.: **Evening in the Elkhorns.** The program will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Elkhorn Forest Reserve with a Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, lecture, and art show. *Myrna Loy Center, Helena*
- May 14, 1:00 p.m.: **Book Premiere—Beyond Spirit Tailings**. Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler will share ghost stories and sign copies of her latest book, chronicling some of the mysteries in Montana's past.
- *May 19*: **Preserving Rural Places**. Join Montana Preservation Alliance Executive Director Chere Jiusto to learn more about the treasures hidden off the beaten track and learn what is being done to protect these special places.
- May 26: Pages in History, Readers Forum. Join other readers in a discussion of Searching for Yellowstone by Paul Schullery. Facilitator to be announced.
- June 16, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: **Under the Tent Activities Day**. Join us on the front lawn of the Montana Historical Society and help celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the National Forest Service with hands-on activities geared toward children. *Daycare groups: please call 444-4789 for reservations*. Cosponsored by the National Forest Service.

# Montana Archaeology Week Events April 11-17, 2005

#### **Billings**

April 12, 5:00 p.m.: Glade Hadden and Johanna Hadden, **The Freemont Culture in Montana**, MSU Billings CEHS Bldg Room 122

## Bozeman

- April 11, 7:00 p.m.: Terri Wolfgram, Archaeological Investigations at Garnet Ghost Town, MSU Strand Union Building, Room 271
- April 12, 7:00 p.m.: Terri Wolfgram, Archaeological Investigations at Garnet Ghost Town, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1300 South 19th

### **Butte**

- April 11, 7:00 p.m.: Garren Meyer, An Intriguing Rock Art Panel from the Otter Creek Valley, Powder River County, Montana, World Museum of Mining, St. Helena's Church
- *April 13, 7:00 p.m.:* Ken Dickerson, **Archaeology at Lemhi Pass,** World Museum of Mining, St. Helena's Church

### Dillon

April 13, 7:00 p.m.: Mark Sant, Red Butte Riffle Pits, Bureau of Land Management, 1005 Selway Dr.

#### Helena

April 12, 7:00 p.m.: Carl Davis, Red Prehistoric Rock Art Studies in West-Central Montana, Chamber of Commerce Bldg, 225 Cruise Ave

April 14, 6:30p.m.: Terri Wolfgram, Archaeological Investigations at Garnet Ghost Town, Montana Historical Society

#### Missoula

April 12, noon: Maria Craig, Archaeological Recovery from the Cabin #12 Stabilization Project at Garnet Ghost Town-2004, Bureau of Land Management, 3239 Ft. Missoula Road

April 13, 11:00 a.m.: Shannon Gilbert, **Zooarchaeology: Using Animal Remains from Cultural Sites to Understand Human Prehistory**, UM Health Science Bldg, room 411, 11:00 a.m.

#### Three Forks

*April 15-17:* **Montana Archaeological Society Annual Meeting**, Sacajawea Hotel. Program details available at http://www.cot.msubillings.edu/MAS/opening.html.

Please check our website at <u>www.montanahistoricalsociety.org</u> for regular updates of upcoming and programs and activities.

### Hours

#### Montana's Museum

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family

## **Museum Store**

Mondays-Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, Noon-5:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No admission fee.

### **Research Center**

*Library and Archives*: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

*Photograph Archives*: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

# **Capitol Guided Tours**

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00 p.m. Self-guided tour brochures available at the security desk on the first floor upon request. Call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

## **Original Governor's Mansion**

\$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$10.00 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

**Through April 30**Saturday only, 12:00.-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

After May 1
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.